

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Request of The Empire)	
District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty for)	
Authority to File Tariffs Increasing Rates)	Case No. ER-2024-0261
For Electric Service Provided to Customers)	
In its Missouri Service Area)	

**RESPONSE TO COMMISSION ORDER:
LIBERTY’S FIFTH ARREARAGE FORGIVENESS PROGRAM STATUS REPORT**

COMES NOW The Empire District Electric Company d/b/a Liberty (“Liberty” or the “Company”), and for its Fifth Arrearage Forgiveness Program Status Report, Liberty respectfully states as follows to the Missouri Public Service Commission (the “Commission”):

1. Ordered paragraph 7 of the *Report and Order* provides as follows: “Empire shall file monthly status reports on the progress toward designing the Arrearage Forgiveness program and awarding the \$8.5 million in associated credits with the first report due 30 days from the effective date of this order.”

2. On March 10, 2026, the parties¹ met and discussed Liberty’s straw-man approach, which included proposed eligibility parameters for forgiveness credits as well as potential requirements associated with the arrearage forgiveness customer adjustments. During the discussion, the non-Company parties indicated that they planned to confer among themselves regarding next steps, after which the parties would reconvene as a group. Following the meeting, Liberty provided the straw-man document that was reviewed during the discussion.

3. On April 20, 2026, Liberty provided the information requested during the initial discussion. Additionally, since provision of the initial straw-man, the Company continued to evaluate options to utilize and apply the arrearage forgiveness program most effectively.

¹ The Empire District Electric Company, the Staff of the Commission, the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel, and the Missouri Consumers Council participated in this meeting.

Consistent with that ongoing review, the Company provided additional potential eligibility criteria for the parties' consideration.

4. On June 11, 2026, Consumers Council of Missouri provided their suggested changes to the Company's straw-man proposal.

5. A meeting was held with the parties on June 24, 2026, during which the parties exchanged perspectives on program design and key program elements. The non-Company parties requested additional information to further inform development of the program and to evaluate alignment on key design parameters. The parties will continue working collaborating toward program development, recognizing that alignment on these parameters will be necessary to reach agreement.

WHEREFORE, Liberty respectfully submits this Response to Commission Order. No action on the part of the Commission is requested at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dean L. Cooper

Dean L. Cooper, MBE #36592

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ATTORNEYS FOR THE EMPIRE DISTRICT
ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a LIBERTY

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the above document was filed in EFIS on this 25th day of June 2026, with notification of the same being sent to all counsel of record; and I further certify that the above document was sent by electronic transmission to all counsel of record.

/s/ Dean L. Cooper